The Lord JESUS

HIS INVOCATION



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DUNCAN BECKETT

A Prayer for Reflection

At the Jordan River, the Lord Jesus prayed, and Heaven responded with these remarkable words: "*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased*" (Luke 3.22 ESV). Never before had God spoken such words concerning any person. Only Christ perfectly pleased the Father. Could God say those words about you today? The honest answer is NO. The Bible says, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3.23 ESV).

Only the Lord Jesus was without sin. The Apostle Peter wrote of Him, "*He committed no sin*" (1 Peter 2.22 ESV). Pontius Pilate declared, "*I find no guilt in him*" (John 19.6 ESV). The repentant criminal confessed, "*this man has done nothing wrong*" (Luke 23.41 ESV), and the Roman centurion exclaimed, "*Certainly this man was innocent*!" (Luke 23.47 ESV). The contrast is unmistakable: Christ alone is righteous, while Scripture declares of us, "*None is righteous, no, not one*" (Romans 3.10 ESV).

A Prayer of Complete Resolve

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord Jesus prayed, "*nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will*" (Matthew 26.39

ESV). Knowing the suffering that lay before Him, He willingly submitted to His Father's will and went to the cross. Why would He willingly endure such agony? Hebrews 12.2 (ESV) gives the answer: "*who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame*." His love for sinners led Him to Calvary. The Apostle Peter writes, "*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree*" (1 Peter 2.24 ESV). As Isaiah foretold centuries earlier, "*He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities*" (Isaiah 53.5 ESV). Have you personally understood what took place at the cross of Calvary?

A Prayer of Revelation

At the tomb of Lazarus, the Lord Jesus prayed, "*Father, I thank you that you have heard me…I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me*." Then He cried, "*Lazarus, come out*," and the dead man came out (John 11.41–44 ESV). This prayer reveals two wonderful truths. First, the raising of Lazarus proves that Jesus is truly the Son of God. Second, it confirms that He is the One sent by the Father to bring salvation. The Bible says, "*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn*

the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3.17 ESV). Salvation is NOT found in our efforts, our religion, or our good works, but in the Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Trust Him today. His sacrifice fully satisfied God concerning sin. Has His sacrifice satisfied you? Have you received the full assurance that your sins are forgiven?

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